

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4 and 20. Please cancel claim 2. All claims are reproduced below.

1. (Currently amended) A method for automatically restricting access to a casino gaming machine, the method comprising:
storing in ~~a customer account~~ an account associated with a customer an indication that the customer's gaming activity should be restricted;
receiving electronically at the casino an indication that the customer is attempting to use a gaming machine at the casino; and
electronically preventing the gaming machine from being played by the customer; and notifying an employee of the casino that the customer is attempting to use the gaming machine.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1 wherein notifying the employee of the casino that the customer is attempting to use the gaming machine further includes notifying the employee of the location of the gaming machine.
4. (Currently amended) A method for automatically restricting access to gaming machines at a plurality of casinos, the method comprising:
at a first casino, storing in ~~a customer account~~ an account associated with a customer an indication that the customer's gaming activity should be restricted at the casino;
at a second casino, receiving electronically an indication that the customer is attempting to use a gaming machine located at the second casino; and

electronically preventing the gaming machine from being played by the customer at the second casino based upon the stored indication in the account associated with the customer.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 4 wherein storing the indication that the customer's gaming activity should be restricted further comprises storing a log entry in the customer account, the entry including details of the restriction.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the details of the restriction include a reason for the restriction.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the details of the restriction include an extent of the restriction.

8. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the details of the restriction include a period of the restriction.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 4 wherein electronically receiving the indication further comprises:

receiving a card-in indication from a gaming machine, the card-in indication including a customer account identifier;

retrieving the customer account identified by the customer account identifier; and

determining from the retrieved customer account that the customer's gaming activity should be restricted.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 4 wherein the indication that the customer should be excluded from the casino further indicates that the exclusion is voluntary.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 4 wherein the indication that the customer should be excluded from the casino further indicates that the exclusion is involuntary.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 4 wherein the restricted gaming activity includes obtaining credit.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 4 wherein the restricted gaming activity includes cashing a check.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 4 wherein the restricted gaming activity includes using a gaming machine.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 4 wherein the restricted gaming activity includes playing a table game.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 4 wherein the restricted gaming activity includes accruing comps.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 4 further wherein storing the indication that the customer's gaming activity should be restricted further comprises storing an indication that the customer should not receive marketing materials.

18. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising notifying an employee of the second casino that the customer is attempting to use the gaming machine.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein notifying the employee of the second casino that the customer is attempting to use the gaming machine further includes notifying the employee of the location of the gaming machine.

20. (Currently amended) A computer program product for automatically restricting access to a casino, the casino having a plurality of gaming machines, the computer program product including a computer-readable medium having computer program code for performing the operations of:

storing in ~~a customer account~~ an account associated with a customer an indication that the customer's gaming activity should be restricted;
receiving electronically at the casino an indication that the customer is attempting to use a gaming machine at the casino; ~~and~~
electronically preventing the gaming machine from being played by the customer; and notifying an employee of the casino that the customer is attempting to use the gaming machine.

21. (Original) A computer program product for automatically restricting access to a casino gaming machine, the computer program product including a computer-readable medium having computer program code for performing the operations of:

at a first casino, storing in a customer account an indication that the customer's gaming activity should be restricted at the casino;
at a second casino, receiving electronically an indication that the customer is attempting to use a gaming machine located at the second casino; and
electronically preventing the gaming machine from being played by the customer.